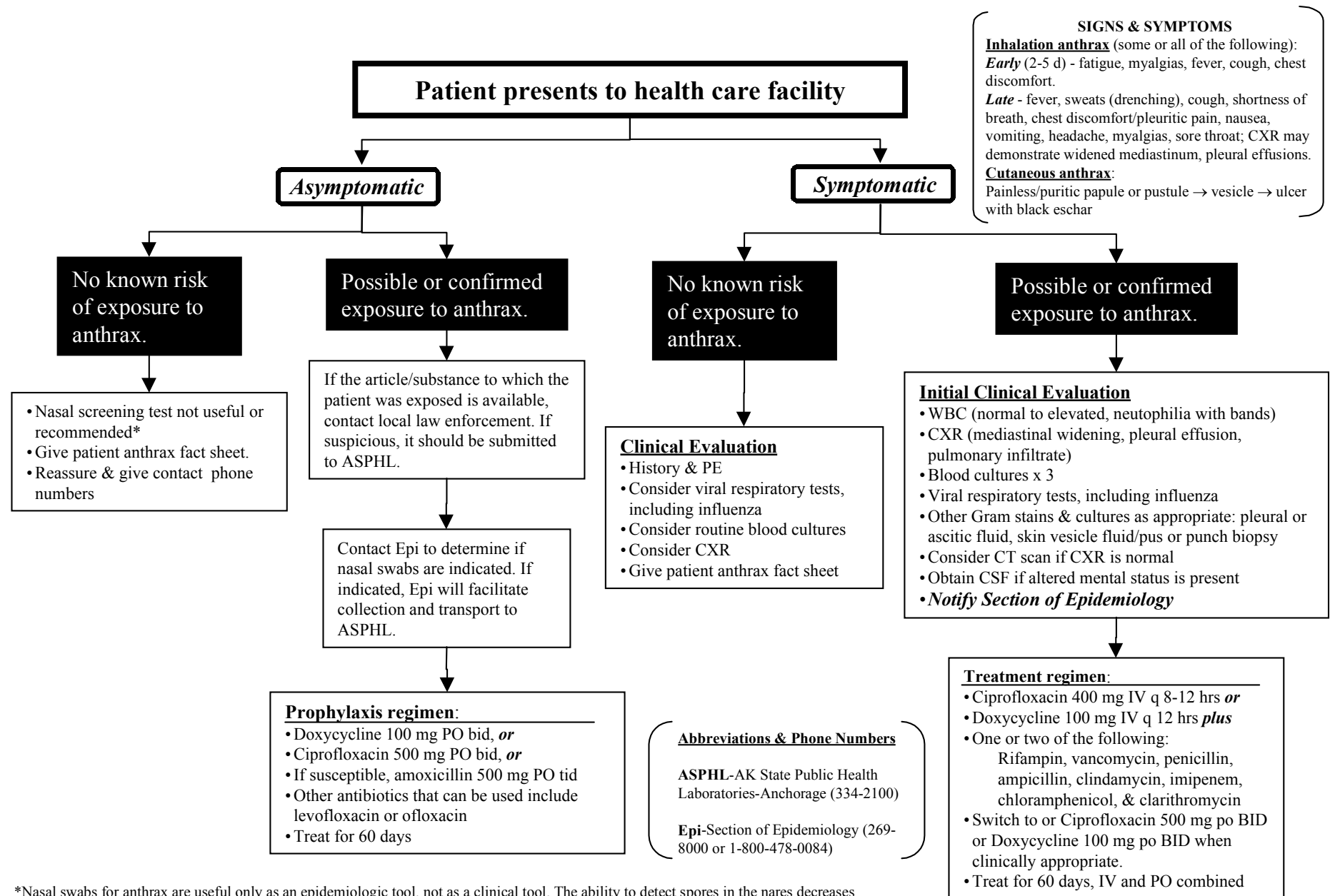


Protocol for Evaluation and Treatment of Anthrax



*Nasal swabs for anthrax are useful only as an epidemiologic tool, not as a clinical tool. The ability to detect spores in the nares decreases rapidly 24 hours after exposure. A negative test does not rule out exposure. The spore stain is nonspecific - a positive result is preliminary and merely indicates the presence of unidentified spores - culture must next be done to determine if *B. anthracis* is present (results in 24-48 hrs).